



Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 30 December 2003

Current Nationwide Threat Level is



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www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- The Department of Homeland Security has issued aviation amendments to enhance security on commercial airliners. (See item [11](#))
- The Food and Drug Administration has announced that its inspectors have located all of the potentially-infectious product rendered from the one cow that has tested positive for bovine spongiform encephalopathy in Washington State. (See item [17](#))
- The Christian Science Monitor reports an east Texas man has plead guilty to possession of a sodium-cyanide bomb capable of killing thousands, more than a hundred explosives, half a million rounds of ammunition, dozens of illegal weapons, and a mound of white-supremacist and antigovernment literature. (See item [23](#))

DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

Federal and State: [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

IT and Cyber: [Information and Telecommunications](#); [Internet Alert Dashboard](#)

Other: [General](#); [DHS/IAIP Web Information](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: HIGH, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *December 29, Reuters* — FERC orders FirstEnergy to study grid reliability. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has ordered Ohio utility FirstEnergy Corp. to pay for an independent study of the state's power grid, where the massive August blackout started. In a December 24 letter to FirstEnergy Chairman Peter Burg, FERC gave the Akron, OH-based utility 120 days to study the stability of the power grid around Akron and

Cleveland, OH, including plants and power lines that it does not own. FirstEnergy must hire an independent consultant by January 30, 2004, with a report due to FERC in April. **The report should include minimum acceptable voltage levels at critical locations on FirstEnergy's grid, the status of its power reserves during the summers of 2004–2008, and the projected need for new grid projects,** FERC said. It also will include "what actions may be beneficial to prevent system cascading for extreme events" such as the loss of three critical high-voltage lines that failed during the August blackout, FERC said.

Source: http://hsweb01.screamingmedia.com/PMA/pma_newsarticle1_reuters.htm?SMDOCID=reuters_pma_2003_12_29_eng-reuters_pma_FERC-ORDERS-FIRSTENERGY-TO-STUDY-GRID-RELIABILITY&SMContentSet=0

2. *December 24, Las Vegas Review Journal (NV)* — **DOE maps rail route for nuclear waste. Plans to transport highly radioactive nuclear waste within Nevada began to take shape Tuesday, December 23, when the Department of Energy (DOE) proposed to develop a 319-mile railroad corridor to Yucca Mountain. Trains carrying spent nuclear fuel canisters from power plants in 39 states would travel from a Union Pacific Railroad site near Caliente, NV, along new tracks west.** DOE envisions waste shipments skirting the Nellis Air Force Range, turning south and proceeding near Goldfield, Scotty's Junction and Beatty before reaching Yucca Mountain, the site of the planned nuclear waste repository, 100 miles northwest of Las Vegas. The Caliente rail corridor was singled out from five potential options studied by DOE. Department officials said the corridors were chosen for their remoteness and because most of the land is managed by federal agencies, diminishing the likelihood of land use conflicts. DOE spokesperson Allen Benson said the corridor selection was preliminary. In about a month, the department is expected to formally declare its preference to ship nuclear waste to Yucca Mountain by rail rather than by truck, allowing a rail corridor choice to be cemented shortly afterward.

Source: http://www.reviewjournal.com/lvrj_home/2003/Dec-24-Wed-2003/news/22868100.html

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Chemical Sector

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Defense Industrial Base Sector

3. *December 29, Federal Computer Week* — **Air Force awards Cheyenne contract. The U.S. Air Force recently awarded a private contractor a \$287 million contract to continue updating computer systems inside Cheyenne Mountain,** the service's impenetrable command and control facility located in Colorado Springs, CO. The Air Force's Integrated Space Command and Control program merges the command and control systems of the Cold War-era North American Aerospace Defense Command and the newly created, war-on-terrorism-era Strategic Command. **The computer systems' integration will give civilian and military leaders greater warning of enemy aircraft, ballistic missiles and computer network and**

space attacks, according to a statement issued by officials at the Department of Defense on Wednesday, December 24.

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2003/1229/web-cheyenne-12-29-03.asp>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Banking and Finance Sector

4. *December 29, Reuters* — **Another bank spoof phishes for data. Singapore's DBS Bank is the latest victim of scammers who lure customers to fake Websites and attempt to trick them into entering personal data**, becoming the fourth bank to report a suspicious Website in Hong Kong this month. **The sophisticated-looking site sports the bank's name and logo and has spaces for users to input their account name and password.** DBS Bank said it had no affiliation with the site. The Hong Kong Monetary Authority, the local banking regulator, said in a separate statement the Website was hosted overseas and it was liaising with the relevant authorities. The Hong Kong arms of Bank of China, global banking giant HSBC Holdings, and UK-based Schroders reported suspicious Websites earlier in December.

Source: <http://news.zdnet.co.uk/internet/security/0,39020375,3911880,2,00.htm>

5. *December 26, Government Computer News* — **FinCEN to expand data-sharing system. The Department of Treasury will spend \$9.9 million over five years to enhance and operate the Secure Outreach and Gateway Web system for its Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN). FinCEN combats money laundering and terrorist financing.** Integrated comprehensive IT service and enhancements will be provided while maintaining connectivity to IRS' Detroit computing center databases. Treasury said task orders will go out immediately for systems administration, security, help desk support, Web development and maintenance tasks. The Secure Outreach and Gateway Web system shares FinCEN information with federal law enforcement and regulatory agencies. Through it, they can access Bank Secrecy Act databases, electronic request and delivery of case items, alerts and secure messaging. **FinCEN plans to expand the existing system, which currently serves 800 users, to handle 10,000 users over the next two to three years as more financial institutions share information.**

Source: http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/24513-1.htm

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Transportation Sector

6. *December 29, New York Post* — **Pilot breaches NY airspace security.** Despite the city's high terror alert, **a pleasure-tripping pilot who got lost on his way home was able to fly his small plane through restricted airspace around La Guardia Airport, down the East River and around the Statue of Liberty**, authorities said Sunday, December 28. The incident sparked investigations by the Federal Aviation Administration and the Department of Homeland Security. But red-faced pilot Richard Langone, 47, insisted he was no terror threat in his single-engine Mooney plane. "I was scared to death," said Langone, describing how an NYPD helicopter, armed with machine guns, began escorting him out of the area after he reached the

Verrazano Bridge. **Langone got into trouble because his flight path could have interfered with air traffic at La Guardia — not because of any terror–related restrictions on flying over the city.** Small aircraft were barred from flying along the East or Hudson rivers and around the Statue of Liberty after 9/11, but those restrictions have since been lifted. **"Perhaps in today's environment, the issue of flying near major landmarks should be revisited," said Deputy Police Commissioner Michael O'Looney.**

Source: <http://www.nypost.com/news/regionalnews/14692.htm>

7. *December 29, WOAI (San Antonio, TX)* — **Airport terminal locked down in TNT scare.** One of the two terminals at San Antonio International Airport was ordered locked down for more than thirty minutes Monday morning, December 29, after a piece of checked luggage tested positive for TNT. The bag had been checked onto an American Airlines flight from San Antonio to Dallas Ft. Worth International Airport, according to Lisa Burkhardt–Worley, a spokesperson for the San Antonio Department of Aviation. "We removed the bag from the premises for further testing and the gentleman who is the owner of the bag was placed on the custody of Airport Police," Burkhardt–Worley said. She said Transportation Security Administration officials scoured Terminal Two and the plane during the lockdown, but nothing suspicious was found. The terminal was re–opened after about a half hour. After an hour of questioning, officials determined that the incident was a "false alarm." **"The gentleman in question's bag had some traces of a cleaning solution on it. The gentleman's mother apparently owns a cleaning business, and the chemicals used in one of the cleaners is similar to the chemical makeup of TNT, so that's why the elements set off the explosive detection machine."**

Source: http://www.woai.com/news/local/story.aspx?content_id=A564A215-B0A6-47BF-97D9-66F2B6A06523

8. *December 29, Associated Press* — **New computer improves pilots' vision.** A new flight computer being marketed to pilots of small aircraft allows them to see through clouds, haze or dense fog, potentially eliminating the kind of disorientation that resulted in 159 fatalities over the last six years. The computer gives pilots a real–time, synthetic view of everything they need to fly the plane safely. That's important when the view out of the cockpit windows turn oatmeal gray, the plane bounces blindly through turbulent air and it's impossible to tell whether the aircraft is aimed up or down. **Pilot disorientation caused at least 72 small aircraft crashes between 1998 and 2003, according to the National Transportation Safety Board.** The evolution of cockpit instrumentation has presented pilots with an increasingly complicated array of dials and gauges. Instrument–certified pilots are trained to assemble the pieces of data into a complete mental picture of what's happening to the aircraft.

Source: http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/1072711187847_53/?hub=SciTech

9. *December 29, Associated Press* — **FAA, air traffic controllers extend contract.** The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the air traffic controllers' union agreed Tuesday to a two–year extension on a contract that will more closely tie pay to performance. **The contract with the National Air Traffic Controllers Association doubles to 75 percent the number of FAA employees whose pay is partially tied to performance. The agency wants the controllers to reduce operational errors, improve runway safety and increase on–time arrivals.** The agreement also calls for annual pay hikes equal to the automatic pay raises

received by other government workers. That was between four and 4.9 percent in 2003, depending on location, but Congress is considering raising it next year. The contract eliminates some costly side agreements. For example, controllers were allowed to keep most of the pay raises from promotions to busier facilities even if they failed training there and returned to their old jobs. The existing five-year contract gave controllers a big pay increase, raising the average base salary 47 percent from 1998 to 2003, from \$72,000 to \$106,000.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2003/TRAVEL/12/10/bi.air.controllers.ap/index.html>

10. *December 29, Contra Costa Times (CA)* — **Propane train cars derail in Pittsburg.** Six cars of a Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway freight train carrying liquid propane derailed in Pittsburg Monday morning, December 29, but none of the propane leaked and no one was injured, railroad and police officials said. The 8:12 a.m. derailment occurred just east of East 10th Street, near where the tracks cross Solari Street, Addington said. The tracks run parallel to East 10th Street. Five of the cars overturned, and one remained upright but off of the tracks, he said. **The railroad sent an investigative team, which is working at a command post with firefighters, hazardous materials specialists and police. Officials weren't yet sure where the train was going or how many cars were being pulled by the locomotive, said Joe Faust, a regional spokesman for the railroad.**

Source: <http://www.bayarea.com/mld/cctimes/7592059.htm>

11. *December 29, Department of Homeland Security* — **The Department of Homeland Security has issued aviation amendments to enhance security on commercial airliners.** The Department of Homeland Security today announced that it issued three aviation emergency amendments to further enhance security on both passenger and cargo aircraft flying to, from and over the United States. International air carriers, where necessary, will now be required to place armed, trained, government law enforcement officers on designated flights as an added protective measure. Some countries already place armed law enforcement officers on flights traveling to, from or over the United States. **The measures contained in these Emergency Amendments are in addition to requirements of federal regulations currently in place. The directives are effective immediately.** Homeland Security remains concerned about al Qaeda's desire to conduct attacks against commercial airlines within the United States. Homeland Security is continuing efforts to enhance the security of commercial passengers, crew and cargo. **"We are asking international air carriers to take this protective action as part of our ongoing effort to make air travel safe for Americans and visitors alike," said Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge. "I have said that we will take specific steps to increase security whenever necessary, and with this action we are doing just that."**

Source: <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=2728>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Agriculture Sector

12. *December 29, Ag Professional* — **USDA halts livestock insurance due to BSE.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Risk Management Agency (RMA) has announced that applications for Specific Coverage Endorsements for Fed Cattle and Feeder Cattle under the Livestock Risk Protection (LRP) Insurance Policy are temporarily suspended pending further review of market conditions. This came as a result of the discovery of mad cow disease, or BSE, in Washington state. Producers that have already purchased Specific Coverage Endorsements for Fed Cattle and Feeder Cattle prior to the withdrawal of insurance will continue to receive coverage under such endorsements. However, producers will not be able to insure additional cattle until further notice.
Source: http://www.agprofessional.com/show_story.php?id=22869
13. *December 29, News Journal* — **Striped bass studied for infection.** A team of scientists is trying to determine whether striped bass in Delaware Bay have been infected with a disease that has been widespread in the Chesapeake Bay. The infection, called mycobacteriosis, causes sores on some of the bass, while attacking the internal organs of other seemingly healthy fish. **Scientists who have studied the disease in bass in the Chesapeake Bay don't know whether the disease kills fish, but are worried that the bacteria could devalue an important fishery along the Atlantic Coast from the Chesapeake Bay to Long Island.** The disease also concerns scientists because it could threaten a striped bass population that has made a comeback after a decline required a fishing moratorium in the mid-1980s. Striped bass also are important predators that keep other fish species in check, said Chris Ottinger, a research fisheries biologist with the U.S. Geological Survey's National Fish Health Laboratory. **The study is aimed at assessing the spread of the disease and seeing whether local fish are less susceptible to the bacteria. A study also is planned in the Long Island area.** Striped bass are migratory and are found along the Atlantic Coast from the St. Lawrence River in Canada to the St. Johns River in Florida.
Source: <http://www.delawareonline.com/newsjournal/local/2003/12/29delawaresstripe.html>
14. *December 29, Agricultural Research Service* — **New sugar beet line.** The first smooth-root sugar beet line with resistance to an emerging disease called rhizomania has been released by the Agricultural Research Service (ARS). **Rhizomania resistance can save an entire crop from ruin.** The new breeding line, EL0204, has shown good overall crop performance in three years of testing in Saginaw, MI, and two years of testing in Salinas, CA. In a Salinas field infected with both rhizomania and leaf spot disease, the new line yielded 12,154 pounds of recoverable sugar per acre, compared to 4,567 pounds on average for seven previous smooth-root releases from ARS. The smooth-root characteristic promises to halve the amount of soil that sticks to grooves in sugar beet roots and makes it into the processing line. This will save the industry several million dollars a year in cleaning and disposal costs. **Genetic material of this release has been deposited in the National Plant Germplasm System, where it will be available for research purposes, including development and commercialization of new sugar beet varieties.** Sugar beets are grown on 1.2 million acres of U.S. cropland and bring farmers \$945 million in annual sales.
Source: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2003/031229.htm>
15. *December 29, CNN* — **DNA testing seeks to locate infected cow's birthplace.** DNA samples from a cow that tested positive for mad cow disease go to a lab Monday to determine the

animal's origin, presumed to be Canada, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) chief veterinarian said Monday. Researchers believe the stricken cow was contaminated as a calf, so locating its birth herd will allow them to track down the herd's other cows to see if they might have eaten the same contaminated feed, Ron DeHaven said. DeHaven said investigators hope to use the stricken cow's DNA samples to confirm their preliminary determination that the animal entered the United States from the Canadian province of Alberta in 2001 with a herd of 73 other cows. Testing also will trace the history of those other cows. Investigators have matched the cow's ear tag to a Canadian herd, but the Canadian Food Inspection Agency said it was unclear that the cow was the same one that became sick, or even that the infected animal had come from Canada.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2003/US/12/29/mad.cow/>

[[Return to top](#)]

Food Sector

16. *December 29, New York Times* — **Suspect beef went to a wider region.** Federal officials said Sunday that meat linked to the investigation of a case of mad cow disease had been distributed to eight states and Guam, more widely than investigators initially believed. Federal officials have asked any stores or suppliers who believe they may have the meat to remove it from shelves and asked any customers to return suspect meat to stores. Agriculture officials said the likelihood that any of the distributed beef had been tainted was slim, because all of the tissues known to be affected by the disease had been removed before the carcass was processed. A recall was being maintained, officials said, "out of an abundance of caution." **Initially, agriculture officials said a December 23 recall of about 10,000 pounds of meat from a slaughter of cattle in Washington State that included an infected Holstein cow involved only four states: Washington, Oregon, California, and Nevada. But meat from the batch has now also been identified in Alaska, Montana, Hawaii, Idaho, and Guam.**

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/12/29/national/29CANA.html>

17. *December 27, Food and Drug Administration* — **FDA statement on rendered products derived from BSE cow.** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced that its investigators and inspectors from the states of Washington and Oregon have located all of the potentially-infectious product rendered from the one cow that has tested positive for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE, known as mad cow disease) in Washington State. **The rendering plants that processed all the non-edible material from the BSE cow have placed a voluntary hold on all of the potentially-infectious product, none of which has left the control of the companies and entered commercial distribution.** The firms, located in Washington State and Oregon, have assisted and cooperated fully with FDA's investigation. Rendering plants typically produce two types of products: meat and bone meal, and fats and oils. Meat and bone meal is a protein supplement used in the manufacture of some animal feeds. FDA's animal feed rule, which took effect in 1997, is a public health measure designed to prevent the spread of BSE by prohibiting the feeding of most mammalian protein to ruminant animals such as cows, sheep and goats. Currently more than 99 percent of firms handling mammalian protein are in compliance with the animal feed rule.

Source: <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2003/NEW01000.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Water Sector

18. *December 29, Water Tech Online* — **EPA releases water security guidance. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has released an extensive package of interim guidance documents designed to help water utilities plan and respond to intentional acts of contamination.** The Response Protocol Tool Box (RPTB): Planning for and Responding to Contamination Threats to Drinking Water Systems document now comprises an overview and four modules that total 356 pages of utility security guidance information. The four modules comprise a 46–page planning guide, a 95–page threat management guide, an 85–page site characterization and sampling guide, and a 113–page analytical guide. Developed by the EPA with significant input from water utilities, the RPTB is specifically intended to be used as a planning tool to be integrated into a water utility's emergency response plan. The guide is available at <http://www.epa.gov/OGWDW/security/index.html>.
Source: http://www.watertechonline.com/news.asp?mode=4&N_ID=45109

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Public Health Sector

19. *December 29, Reuters* — **Researchers find inhibitor of anthrax toxin. A small group of molecules has been shown to inhibit a deadly toxin associated with inhalational anthrax, a discovery that could lead to new ways of treating the disease, researchers said on Monday.** Scientists at Harvard Medical School and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center said the finding may help in the development of a drug that, when combined with antibiotics, could treat inhalational anthrax at a point when antibiotics alone are no longer effective. **Unlike most types of bacteria, the anthrax germ can produce large amounts of a toxin that can kill a person even after antibiotics have destroyed the bacteria, said the study's senior author, Lewis Cantley.** The researchers said their discovery could enable scientists to develop drugs capable of fighting the anthrax toxin in a way similar to the protease inhibitors that tackle the AIDS virus. Protease inhibitors work by disabling native protease enzymes and, like a key fitting perfectly into a lock, they jam up the enzyme, rendering it ineffectual. "Unlike an anti-serum, which would require that whole populations be vaccinated, regardless of whether or not an anthrax outbreak developed, a therapeutic combination of antibiotics and protease inhibitor drugs wouldn't have to be used except in the incidence of actual disease," Cantley said.
Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/N29331075.htm>

20. *December 29, Associated Press* — **Suspected Ebola death in Zimbabwe. Zambian border officials were placed on alert after authorities in neighboring Zimbabwe announced that an Angolan trader may have died of the Ebola virus, health officials said Monday.** A team of Zambian health officials traveled to the Zimbabwe border town of Victoria Falls on Monday, where the man died, to seek further information about the case, said Victor Mukonka, spokesman for the Central Board of Health. **The Angolan man, who had traveled to**

Zimbabwe via Namibia and Botswana, was admitted to a Victoria Falls hospital on Wednesday with possible symptoms of the hemorrhagic fever. He was isolated and died Thursday, according to Zimbabwe news reports. Samples from the victim were being sent to a South African laboratory for testing. "Maybe it may turn out not to be Ebola at all," Mukonka said. "But we cannot take chances in cases of this nature." Health officials in other neighboring countries said they were watching developments, but did not immediately announce precautionary measures. **Doctors at the South African National Institute for Communicable Diseases said the chances of an Ebola outbreak in southern Africa were low and urged calm.**

Source: <http://newsobserver.com/24hour/world/story/1098583p-7684459c.html>

[[Return to top](#)]

Government Sector

Nothing to report.

[[Return to top](#)]

Emergency Services Sector

21. *December 29, Bradenton Herald (Bradenton, FL)* — Training class to fight terrorist attack fears. Starting in April, Manatee Technical Institute (MTI) is expected to begin offering a course that teaches emergency responses to terrorism. **Open to the public and health care professionals, the course will educate students on how to recognize and deal with a terrorist attack.** "We hope it never happens, but also hope that we'd be prepared if it happens," said Jim Cena, an emergency medical technician coordinator at MTI. An emergency response staff would first have to determine the nature of the crisis and what biological, chemical or explosive agent caused it, said Lt. Todd Carnell, a full-time paramedic instructor at MTI. Then, they would have to manage it until specialists arrive. **Initial recognition makes a huge difference in whether emergency officials have to impose a quarantine and decide which specialists to call, Carnell said.** Carnell, who also works full time for the Hillsborough County Fire Rescue Department, said he thinks the most important aspect of the terrorism training is in recognizing a terrorist event.

Source: <http://www.bradenton.com/mld/bradenton/7588414.htm>

22. *December 29, TheBostonChannel* — Security stepped up for Boston's First Night. The countdown has begun to Boston's First Night celebration and with more than one million people expected to attend and the nation at an orange alert, the city is working diligently to keep revelers safe. NewsCenter 5's Gail Huff reported that city officials are working hard to make sure the public knows there will be plenty of security around the city for New Year's celebrations. "The police, the fire, the EMTs, ever since the Orange Alert went into effect, there's been more surveillance out there," said Boston Mayor Tom Menino, who put the word on the streets that First Night celebrations will be well covered. "We will be checking any suspicious activity, but at this point we're not capable of screening all the bags that come on the MBTA," said Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority Deputy Chief John Martino, who talked about security on the public transportation system, as revelers are being urged to use

the 'T' because of parking restrictions that will make travel difficult in the city.

Source: <http://www.thebostonchannel.com/news/2729922/detail.html>

23. *December 29, The Christian Science Monitor* — **The terror threat at home, often overlooked. Last month, an east Texas man pleaded guilty to possession of a weapon of mass destruction. Inside the home and storage facilities of William Krar, investigators found a sodium–cyanide bomb capable of killing thousands, more than a hundred explosives, half a million rounds of ammunition, dozens of illegal weapons, and a mound of white–supremacist and antigovernment literature.** The case began in the fall of 2002 when a package bound for New Jersey was misdelivered to a New York address. The family inadvertently opened the package and found fake identification badges, including Department of Defense and United Nations IDs. The FBI eventually tracked the package back to Krar in Noonday, Texas. The cache of weapons and bombs was found when the FBI served a search warrant in April of this year. Krar and his common–law wife, Judith Bruey, and the receiver of the package, New Jersey Militia member Edward Feltus, were arrested. All three have pleaded guilty to separate counts and are awaiting sentencing. **Still, investigators have been unable to answer questions such as: Where was the sodium–cyanide bomb destined? And were the weapons being prepared for a group or sold individually? Experts say the case is important not only because of what it says about increased government cooperation, but also because it shows how serious a threat the country faces from within.**

Source: <http://www.csmonitor.com/2003/1229/p02s01–usju.html>

24. *December 29, Associated Press* — **U.S. rescue teams head to Iran quake scene.** U.S. physicians and a rescue crew trained to search for survivors amid the wreckage of terrorist attacks and natural disasters are headed to Iran to help in the aftermath of a devastating earthquake. The 71–member California Task Force Two, comprised primarily of Los Angeles County firefighters, had been set to leave as well but was placed on 24–hour standby, said U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Carlos Arispe. National Security Council officials decided to delay the flight after Iranian officials said they did not need additional rescue assistance, said Los Angeles County fire Battalion Chief Terry DeJournett. **The California team included hazardous materials experts, paramedics, five search and rescue dogs and their handlers, and one medical doctor, said Los Angeles County fire Capt. Gil Sanchez. Members of the team, one of only two in the United States to win a contract from the U.S. Agency for International Development to provide overseas disaster assistance, had spent six weeks in training to qualify for membership.**

Source: <http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?sectionId=46&id=23670>

[[Return to top](#)]

Information and Telecommunications Sector

25. *December 29, CNET News.com* — **Communication breakdown threatens VoIP.** Currently, about 11 percent of all phone calls use nationwide voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) services at some point in the connection. Most of this VoIP shuttling takes place in delivering international calls, through IP network providers. Calls are handed off to traditional circuit–switched networks at either end, but make long–distance jumps using cheaper packet switching, or IP, technology. As more calls shift to IP, these handoffs will grow in volume and

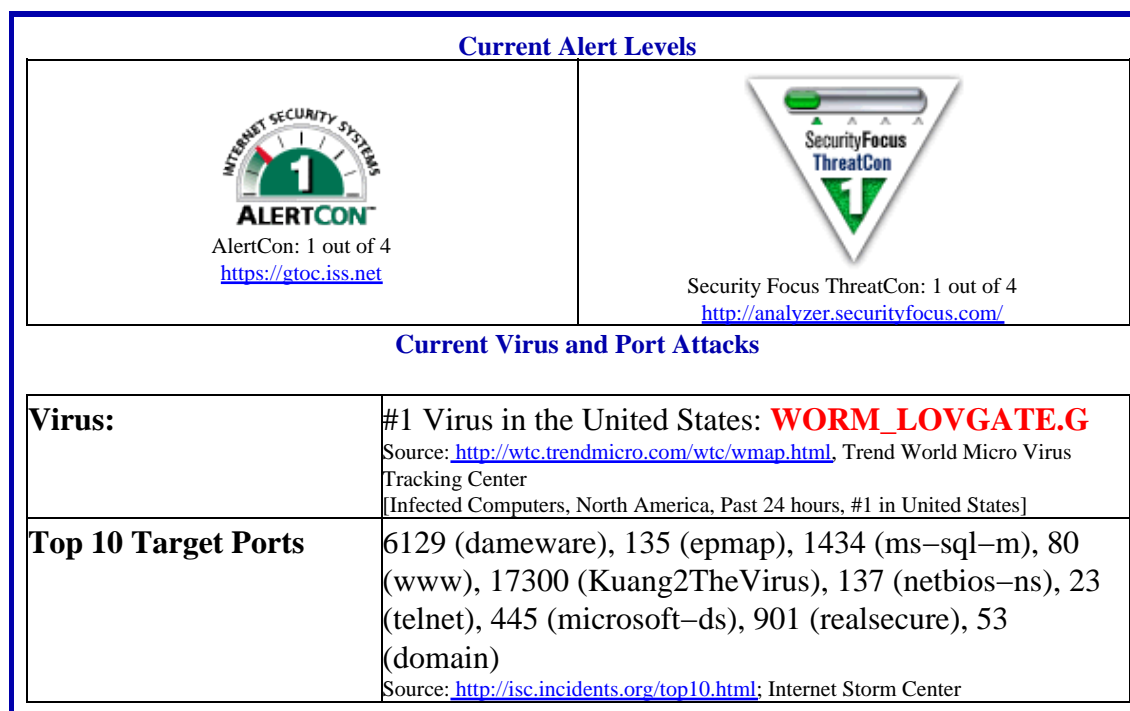
complexity, raising significant technical issues for carriers, experts said. **The basic protocols used to signal VoIP connections, session initiation protocol and H.232 are evolving standards that have been implemented differently by equipment makers. As a result softswitches and Internet protocol gateways from one vendor may not interoperate with equipment from another.** And if the equipment sitting on each network isn't able to talk to each other, then the call can't be completed. A new category of product has been developed to help alleviate this issue. VoIP session controllers can be deployed between two carrier networks to help simplify the protocol conversion. But even with session control technology translating the protocols, carriers still need to test and tweak the networks at the interconnection points.

Source: http://zdnet.com.com/2100-1105_2-5133196.html

- 26. December 29, CNETAsia — Terror warning conceals virus.** A new virus is spreading by e-mail in Malaysia, combining threats of terrorist plans and a Trojan horse virus. **Victims receive an e-mail that claims to warn of five planned terrorist attacks, with the times and places leaked by an anonymous Malaysian government source. The e-mail's subject line is "Urgent message to all citizens of Malaysia,"** and the e-mail says it seeks to minimize the number of terrorist victims by spreading the terrorist attacks information, reported the Star, a Malaysian daily. Inside the e-mail is an embedded link that purports to link to a site with important information regarding the attacks. However, the Malaysian Computer Emergency Response Team (myCERT) said that **clicking on the link instead installs three malicious files that appear to be Trojan horse virus files and adds a new key to the computer registry.** Then the virus attempts to connect to three Internet hosts set by the virus. MyCERT said that the three Internet hosts to which the virus attempts to connect could have had their security compromised already. They have notified the three hosts' system administrators.

Source: http://news.zdnet.co.uk/software/applications/0,39020384,391_18800,00.htm

Internet Alert Dashboard



General Sector

27. *December 29, Bay City News (CA)* — Storm causes flooding, power outages, delays. A storm moving through the San Francisco Bay Area Monday, December 29, flooded many streets and some homes, caused power outages and delayed flights, officials said. **The National Weather Service (NWS) issued high surf advisories and flash flood watches for the entire Bay Area, and a flash flood warning for Napa County,** meteorologist Ryan Walbrun said. **Pacific Gas and Electric Co. officials said more than 12,600 customers were without power in Sonoma County Monday morning. In Marin and Napa counties about 1,600 customers were without power, mostly in the San Rafael and Novato area.** Marin County authorities have reported flooding on roads and in homes as well as downed power lines and trees. **San Francisco International Airport has been experiencing on average one hour delays because of low visibility,** according to airport spokesman Mike McCarron. Dozens of East Bay Municipal Utility District customers were without water service in the city of Alameda because of a water main break overnight, utility officials said. The storm has also caused extensive traffic congestion.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/gate/archive/20.03/12/29/power.DTL>

DHS/IAIP Products & Contact Information

The Department of Homeland Security's Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection (IAIP) serves as a national critical infrastructure threat assessment, warning, vulnerability entity. The IAIP provides a range of bulletins and advisories of interest to information system security and professionals and those involved in protecting public and private infrastructures. By visiting the IAIP web-site (<http://www.nipc.gov>), one can quickly access any of the following DHS/IAIP products:

[DHS/IAIP Warnings](#) – DHS/IAIP Assessments, Advisories, and Alerts: DHS/IAIP produces three levels of infrastructure warnings. Collectively, these threat warning products will be based on material that is significant, credible, timely, and that address cyber and/or infrastructure dimensions with possibly significant impact.

[DHS/IAIP Publications](#) – DHS/IAIP Daily Reports, CyberNotes, Information Bulletins, and other publications

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